STENOGRAPHIC TRANSCRIPT

P U B L I C H E A R I N G

RE: MEDICAL CENTER URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT AREA

BOOK No. 5.

(Newark City Hall, Tuesday, June 20th, 1967)

WINARD & WINARD
24 COMMERCE STREET
NEWARK, N. J. 07102

NEWARK CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBER
ESSEX COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE HEARING IN RE: CONSIDERATION OF STATUS OF CERTAIN AREAS IN THE CITY OF NEWARK

Newark, New Jersey
June 20, 1957

B E F O R E :

NEWARK PLANNING BOARD
Joseph A. Cocuzza, Chairman
Adio Gimechino, Secretary
Joseph J. Bradley
Matthew D'Alessio
Harry G. McDowell
Vincent Corrado

BENJAMIN S. TORTORIELLO
Certified Shorthand Reporter

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MR. COCUZZA: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. The secretary will now call the roll.

MR. GIACCHINO: Councilman Bradley.

MR. BRADLEY: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Councilman D'Alessio.

MR. D'ALESSIO: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Chairman Cocuzza.

MR. COCUZZA: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Councilman McDowell.

MR. McDOWELL: Here.

MR. GIACCHINO: Councilman Corrado.

MR. CORRADO: Here.

MR. COCUZZA: This is a continuation of the night hearing covering the area in question and that area is bounded by Bergen Street on the west, Norfolk Street on the east, South Orange Avenue on the south and 12th Avenue on the north.

The chair calls the first speaker, Mr. Joseph Pickus.

Give the reporter your name and address, please.

MR. PICKUS: Joseph Pickus. I am representing the Accident Prevention

Committee of the Hospital and Health Council of Newark and Vicinity.

MR. COCCHIA: You have 30 minutes for your presentation, sir.

MR. PIERCE: I won't be quite that long.

Recent visual inspection of the housing now being considered in this blight hearing revealed without question that the state of housing militated against the public health of those persons using these dwellings.

Public health authorities have stated that the filth epidemics of the 19th century have been conquered in civilized and relatively prosperous lands like ours. We can now think in terms of health rather than in terms of diseases and from this standpoint such problems as nutrition and housing come to the forefront. There were four categories of needs readily apparent during the course of the inspection as related to housing:

1. Fundamental physiological needs

a. There would be inadequate maintenance of a thermal environ-

ment which would avoid undue heat loss from the human body.

b. There would be inadequate maintenance of a thermal environment which would permit adequate heat loss from the human body or to put it another way for a and b it was either too hot or too cold.

c. There was inadequate provision for adequate daylight illumination and avoidance of undue daylight glare.

d. There was inadequate protection against excessive noise.

e. There was inadequate provision of adequate space for exercise and for play of children.

2. Fundamental psychological needs

a. Inadequate provision of the privacy of the individual.

b. Inadequate provision of opportunities for normal family life.

c. Inadequate provision of

facilities for maintenance of cleanliness of the dwelling and of the person.

3. Protection against contagion

a. Inadequate protection of the water supply system against pollution within the dwelling.

b. Inadequate provision of toilet facilities to minimize the danger of transmitting disease.

c. Inadequate exclusion from the dwelling of vermin which may play a part in the transmission of disease.

d. Inadequate provision of sufficient space in sleeping rooms that minimizes the danger of contact infections.

4. Protection against accidents

a. Inadequate condition to prevent fires or to promote their spread.

b. Inadequate facilities for escape in case of fire.

c. Inadequate protection against

danger of electrical shocks and burns.

d. Inadequate protection against falls and other mechanical injuries in the home.

e. Inadequate protection against lead poisoning for children addicted to pica or otherwise subject by habit to ingest paint surfaces contained in the many layers of lead paint found in old domiciles.

MR. COCUZZA: Thank you very much, Mr. Plakus.

The next speaker is Mr. Charles Niebling.

Will you give your name and address to the reporter.

MR. NIEBLING: My name is Charles B. Niebling. I am chairman of the Committee to Support the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark. I am appearing on behalf of the Committee to urge an affirmative finding and determination by the Central Planning Board that

the area of land described in the notice of this hearing is a "blighted area", as a necessary and proper preliminary step to the acquisition and redevelopment of the land on the site of the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry.

Our Committee is a voluntary organization of some 51 individuals who were active in supporting the decision by the Trustees of the College to locate in Newark and who have now a continuing interest in seeing that the benefits accruing to both the College and the City from that decision are fully realized. The roster of members of the Committee is attached to this statement. It is composed of representatives of the medical and dental professional societies, the private hospitals, the Hospital and Health Council of Newark and Vicinity, various social and welfare organizations concerned with public health and medical care, Rutgers University in Newark, labor organizations and business firms, all of them are centered in Newark or within Essex County.

The purpose of our Committee is implicit in its title--to assist wherever appropriate in the successful establishment of the College of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark. We have no official status, but are acting voluntarily to advance what we conceive to be the best interests of Newark and its citizens. The Committee believes it can have a useful function as a medium of communication and interpretation between the College, the City administration and community groups who are affected by the location and construction of the College. It intends to use its influence to see both that the College is accepted and supported in the Newark community and that the reasonable needs and interests of the community are fully and adequately provided for.

The Committee has approached the question before the Planning Board at this hearing from the standpoint of the significance of a blight determination to the construction of the College of Medicine and Dentistry on the site selected. Many members of the Committee, through their

[illegible] health and welfare agencies [illegible]

[illegible] construction that meets the standards [illegible] requirements for determination of blight.

The Commission, however, prefers to leave the technical arguments to the authorities [illegible]. We are concerned that the blight declaration be made as an indispensable step in the process of [illegible] land available for the College at a minimum cost and in accordance with the time schedule to which the City is committed. The temporary loss of dwelling accommodations will be offset many times by the positive values and benefits to all the [illegible] that will result from the construction and operation of the College and its [illegible] facilities and facilities. The estimated expenditure of upward of $70 million will provide increased employment

[illegible] the medical

will require additional housing in the immediate vicinity, attract business to serve the working population at the College, increase property values, provide larger tax revenues and generally improve the condition of the entire surrounding area. These points have already been cogently stated by the City administration to back up the agreement with the College, and the Committee is fully in accord with their validity.

We are not unmindful of the human needs and interests of the many residents of the area who will be compelled to give up their homes and find housing accommodations elsewhere. The relocation process incident to [illegible] accompanied by [illegible] The Committee has already [illegible] to improve the relocation [illegible] to eliminate some of the objections

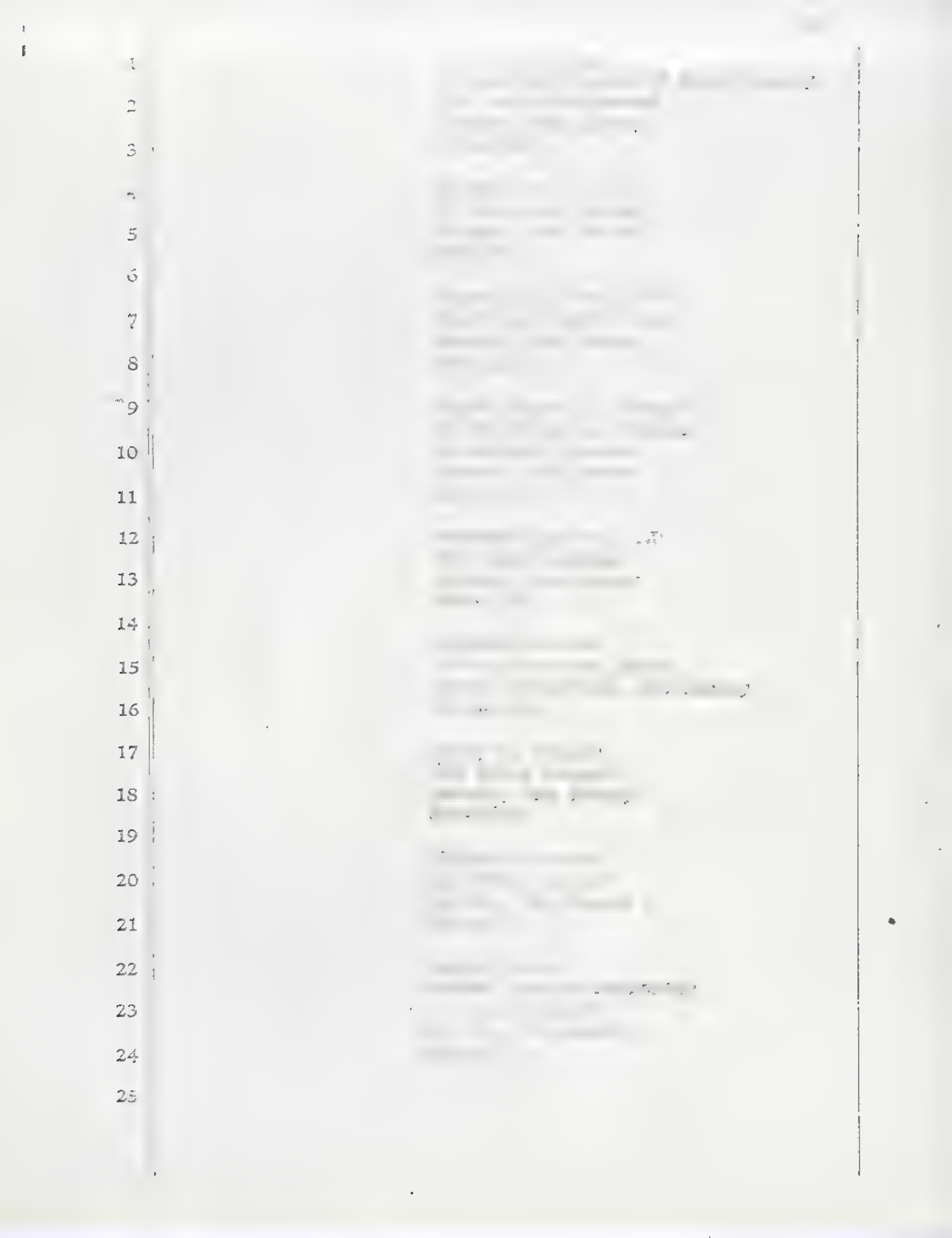
[illegible] difficult
[illegible] to develop
[illegible] that will make the
[illegible] area aware to the
[illegible] of the people involved rather
than to their disadvantage. Hopefully
the results of [illegible] will be in
effect within the next few months and
before any actual removal from the area
is required.

[illegible]

[illegible]
[illegible], New Jersey
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Center for Restorative
[illegible] Avenue
[illegible] Jersey



[illegible] Clinic

[illegible] y Council
[illegible]
[illegible] Jersey

[illegible] Gilliland, Dean
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7 Sanford Avenue
Belleville, New Jersey
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MR. COCUZZA: Thank you very much, Mr. Neibling.

The next speaker is Mr. Al Wallach, 487 Clinton Place, Newark.

MR. WALLACH: Mr. Chairman, before I start--

MR. COCUZZA: Mr. Wallach, will you give your name and address and whom you represent to the stenographer.

MR. WALLACH: My name is Al Wallach. I live at 487 Clinton Place in Newark, New Jersey. I represent myself.

Before I start my presentation, may I just ask the chair a question so I better understand the rules and regulations here. This planning board deals in part with things like public health and accident prevention and air pollution, is that the idea?

MR. COCUZZA: This is a public hearing regarding the area under consideration, this is a plight hearing, we will evaluate all the comments you make.

MR. WALLACH: I am trying to understand, does part of this evaluation deal with section presentation like I mentioned previously and things like public health or lead poisoning, is that part of the evaluation?

MR. COCUZZA: Everything that is mentioned, remarks and questions are part of the evaluation that the board will take into consideration.

MR. WALLACH: That's part of the planning board's interest or responsibility?

MR. COCUZZA: Whatever is said here will be considered by the board.

MR. WALLACH: That's not my question.

MR. COCUZZA: Please, we will evaluate what you have to say.

MR. WALLACH: I understand you, sir. I don't want to get into any argument with you. What I am trying to understand, does the scope of the planning board deal with

such problems like public health, accident prevention, et cetera?

MR. COCUZZA: That has been covered by many individuals and it has been mentioned that it is within the province of this hearing and it will be considered by this board.

MR. WALLACH: I understand what you say.

MR. COCUZZA: You will accept that statement.

MR. WALLACH: You mean you can't answer me?

MR. COCUZZA: I answered you in the form that is conducive to this hearing. Please continue.

MR. WALLACH: Before I start, I am trying to understand, I don't want to get into a hassle with you or the board, but these things that have been mentioned, are they part of the planning board's interest, yes or no?

MR. COCUZZA: Whatever is said is part of the hearing and it will be so evaluated.

MR. WALLACH: Before I start, I will then have to assume that there is no yes or no answer or there is a reason for not saying forthrightly yes, it is of interest, although I have seen the nodding of heads of some of the other gentlemen here saying yes it is of interest, on that basis and my own personal interest, I will speak.

I come here both as an individual resident of Newark, who does not live in this area but is concerned with this area and the people of this area and the people of Newark, including myself and my family, especially since I own property. I also come here because professionally I think it should be stated for the record that I am interested in environmental health and accident prevention. I am a fellow in the American Public Health Association, so that I am not a lay person. I have done work professionally for the health department in housing. I am very much concerned about air pollution. I have been involved in investigating lead poisoning that has affected many children. So that this partly

is the reason that I am here to speak and to present not just views but facts, gentlemen, which I hope will be given serious consideration. I am aware partly from my personal experience, because I have had to make in my capacity professionally investigations of situations where people have died of lead poisoning in poor homes, where children have gotten lead poisoning in this area, and I raise a question to myself and to this board, if this board is concerned with these things, and I speak not now of the incidents in the last six months, but in the last ten years, that I am aware such things have happened, I wonder why there has been such a late interest in this area on these matters.

This is question number one. I have other questions to ask. I am very much for a medical school here, but there are different ways of having a medical school. I have to ask, and hopefully you gentlemen will answer, although I have tried that and without any success, I would have to ask, do you feel that infant mortality in

the actual ward will be reduced because a medical school is here? Well, I tell you professionally no. I think if you will ask one of the other two gentlemen who spoke previously before me, they would have to tell you that a medical school in itself does not decrease infant mortality.

When we speak of communicable diseases, I have to ask the question that if we are speaking of 50 acres and then 100 acres, which is 150 acres, and these people are removed into another part of Newark, knowing what we do know about communicable diseases like tuberculosis, which is a serious problem, this will not reduce tuberculosis, it will increase it, then how can you gentlemen ever conclude that so many acres must be removed if you are concerned with the health of the people, not just there, but the impact this will have in other parts of the city. I appreciate that good efforts may be made by some governmental agencies. I try to keep up with the news in the newspaper. I am aware that months ago there was a meeting held

concerning the relocation site. The Newark Housing Authority admitted they were not prepared to answer the problem of relocation. Now where are these people going to go? I have no quarrel with rebuilding but I would like to see this done now before any medical school.

I have to ask you gentlemen a question, some of you may not have been on the planning board five or ten years ago and it would have been very lovely for the planning board to have shown some interest on this matter then and for them to show it now, remember what you are doing is literally increasing this condition, not reducing it.

You are concerned with air pollution. I have to raise a question. Planning to me, I speak as a scientist, planning means getting data, evaluating the data and coming to some honest objective conclusions. With no disrespect to the head of the air pollution bureau, who I know professionally, I have to ask a question. I read in the paper that some people had bragged a few

months ago at a public hearing by the U.S. Public Health Service that a third of a million dollars was spent each year, that's the budget for air pollution. This is very lovely. Now a planning board should be concerned with air pollution. Now I have here something from an air pollution survey that says that Newark has the worst sulphur dioxide concentration in the whole United States. One third of a million dollars, what sort of planning spending is this? I should think you gentlemen would be concerned with such things. Lead poisoning causes emphysema and makes people, especially children, susceptible to disease. Newark is the second worst city of the whole country. I have to ask, where is this planning?

A very important point was raised by what the gentlemen told me before, I am going before and I agree with him, that we are concerned with health and accident prevention, but I wonder just whether a medical building will really solve these problems or will they aggravate it by itself.

A lot of children are sick from malnutrition. Will the building of a medical building help malnutrition? You mentioned a lot of money spent for construction, but I think you gentlemen know as well as I do, not necessarily will that construction help the people who live in that area, I'm sure you will appreciate that. In other words, just getting to the question of health, I hope I made it very clear to all of you gentlemen, who I am sure are very concerned with the health of the people in Newark, especially in this area, I'm sure you are concerned with housing problems, I hope you appreciate now that just because you have a medical school that in itself does not prevent any of these problems.

Let me give you a few more examples. I went to graduate school at Johns Hopkins University. I spent two years there taking a course in civil engineering. I majored in sanitary engineering. One of those two years was spent at the graduate school of public health, Johns Hopkins University. This medical school years ago was situated

in an area similar to the area you are concerned with here. Lead poisoning affecting children was the worst thing there, in fact the Baltimore Health Department was one of the pioneers because they had such a sharp problem, so obviously such a highly respected school as Johns Hopkins University bought its medical school and its school of hygiene and public health, which are among the leading schools, not just in this country but in the world, all to convince you that just having a medical school in itself means nothing to the health of the people in the area. I think you gentlemen ought to know also that near that school was one of the worst areas with a tuberculosis rate because the Baltimore, Maryland, State Health Department, who were very much concerned with these problems, made detailed studies of the problems and the causes. They dealt with proper planning for decent housing. Unless this planning board deals with proper planning and decent housing, they will be of no help

for these people, none whatsoever to be of real significance.

Now I get to the question of money. I gather there is a lot of money involved here. You people are talking about 150 acres. I had been at three universities in my life, gentlemen, New York University, my undergraduate work at Johns Hopkins where I spent two years, then I spent two more years doing graduate work in public health, and I think you gentlemen, if you don't know, I will tell you or you can check this very, very easily, will find that not only was not 50 acres necessary but much less than 50 acres, let alone 150 acres, so that I would think this planning board should really conscientiously make very strong efforts to see what is the average acreage needed for a university for John Hopkins, Bellevue Medical School, Pittsburgh Medical School, Chicago, then you will not need not only 150 acres, you will not need 50 acres, then we hope that you gentlemen will make every effort to convince not only the administration, but also the

trustees who want this medical school, for they are not foolish people, they are wise fellows, they have lots of knowledge and contact with such information, otherwise think what you will be doing to the city, not just to the people who will be displaced, I say it for very selfish reasons, there's nothing wrong with being concerned with oneself, just as I'm sure you fellows are concerned with yourselves, too.

I spoke before of lots of money, and I have to say now, gentlemen, that I'm aware that unless there is industry here the economic problems of Newark will be worse and worse. This planning is causing some of the large plants from here to leave. I don't care to discuss it publicly. I think you gentlemen know that one of the corporations that has been here literally decades is planning to move out. Again this comes back to the financial thing. We need ratables, we are told. Obviously a medical school is not a ratable. If you use 150 acres, you

are removing 150 acres from ratables and that's not very good planning, gentlemen, not if 50 acres when it could be done with ten or 15 or 20. Then I have to ask myself the question where is this money going to come from? Now I know there have been promises made that the federal government will take care of it. Would you gentlemen care to put up a bond for all the money that you say that the federal government will put funds up for, when you do, I know you mean it, otherwise what you gentlemen will be doing or being influenced in doing is having the people of Newark pay for this one the benefits, even though I for one would like to see a medical school here, in terms of 150 acres will not be equal to the hardship not only for the people in the area but the people in the other areas.

For example, I have three children in school, they are registered in school and I can become aware of the tremendous burden that will now exist. My kids go to Chancellor, it's supposed to be a very good

school, already this year it has been necessary for the parents to get together and speak before bodies like yours, except they dealt with educational bodies, that we don't have 40 or more kids to a class. Of course, the only way this was done was by large numbers. So that only with the present population, only with the promise of the construction of some additional classrooms, thanks to the alertness of some parents, not just myself, we will have this or we will see that we have it in the next two months or else we'll know the reason why.

What about the children who live in those areas, I don't think that most of those children will be able to afford the apartments on Elizabeth Avenue, nor the parents of the children, I mean, if they did, I would be happy, it would mean a rising of the total economic picture of the city, but in the other case it would mean a tremendous overcrowding of already overcrowded schools. I am aware of what is in the south ward, for I have lived there. I read in the papers what goes on in other

areas, there are split sessions. If we speak of improving our city and the people in it, it can't be done without decent education. How in the world can there be decent education if the already crowded schools are made crowded. Where else are these kids going to go to if we already have split sessions in places like Peshine, how much worse will it be. Where are these kids going to go? I'm sure that you are concerned with the children's education. We are having enough trouble with dropouts now. You must not be permitted 50 acres, let alone 150 acres to be used for this medical building.

Part of a city's planning is its educational program, otherwise you will cause or be helpful in causing a further worsening of education, which means the children that would be [illegible] would be more dropouts and not have an opportunity for a halfway decent job because to most jobs you have to have a high school education, even that doesn't assure you always of a decent job, no matter where you were born or who your

parents were. I digressed, as you can see I am very much concerned.

I don't know how much money, maybe you gentlemen can tell me, how many millions is this thing supposed to cost. I come always to learn as well as to speak my views and the facts, but apparently there is a hesitancy, for what reason I cannot figure out, maybe I'd better check my notes. I know there are millions and millions, I don't know how many, but in any case, whatever it is, there was this sweet talk of promises that much money will come from the borough. Gentlemen, if you are serious about this, if this is going to be the basis for your decision, then I think you ought to be aware or be reminded of three things, one, congress is kind of tight with money, in fact they are speaking of a six per cent increase or more in income tax and obviously this is just to take care of the deficit spending now, so it's not going to be so easy to get money; two, we have had other promises about federal funds will come, just like we heard about

state funds will come, but again I ask the question of all of you gentlemen, I have to ask it very seriously yet in a sense bitingly because my pocketbook, my home, my family and my friends and the people in Newark generally, of which you are a part, are concerned, and that is if the basis, if all this money spent is going to almost bankrupt Newark--you know already the rating of Newark has dropped from A down to BAA, if already it dropped, which means that the borrowing capacity of Newark is less, and on the basis that the bulk of the money is going to come from the state or the federal funds, I think in all conscientiousness you have to ask yourself the question would I as an individual be willing to bind myself, that only if this is where the money will come from will I be for this, otherwise you are saying I am not so sure and so even though I as an individual may be a little affected, so the workers will go broke more or less. I don't think that is what you people mean here, I hope not.

I know if I were asked to sign something which would involve millions of dollars and it would make or break Newark, it has enough problems as it is that we are aware of and which I have mentioned, the making or breaking of Newark would depend upon obtaining grants from the federal government to the tune of millions of dollars, otherwise Newark is flat busted, which means no money for schools, no money for playgrounds, no money for summer school, recreation and et cetera, this would bother my conscience very much and I ask/the question am I so sure that I could sign a promissory note, otherwise I would be indebted for life. This must be the attitude, to me it's a very conscientious person that must think this way.

I have one or two more things to say. One does not like to be a sourful prophet, one prefers happiness. One would prefer to say that schools are improving, classrooms are decreasing in size to 30, the maximum desired by the state board of

education and called for by the Newark board of education as the desired average, improved recreational facilities, possible cooperative housing for many people who do not want to leave Newark, they prefer not to be chased away, but if all bad things occur, in other words, the breaking of Newark, the further crowding of homes, which already exists, gentlemen, and if you wish I will be happy to take you all to parts of nice Weequahic, nice Chancellor Avenue, I live in Hillside, a nice area, but this is now before this proposed construction starts, what would you gentlemen be responsible for once the construction starts and the people are forced to move from their homes with no real guarantee, because I mentioned before the Housing Authority never did anything in the past about relocation, why should I believe that one of you pushing the button is going to be concerned one pronto, it's going to be improved.

I conclude, gentlemen, with saying that if these things happen people will say, I for one will say these were some of the

people responsible. I hope there is nobody here that collides. I hope you are sensitive enough to go back and make a decision to minimize this acreage so that it is no different than any of the great universities I mentioned before like Hopkins, Rush, Pittsburgh, Bellevue who spent part of their planning to improve the air pollution, improve the housing, stimulate the board of education, so that Newark becomes the city it was ten or twenty years ago, otherwise you will make people like me think, "All right, I have begun to think, what political action must I take now to see to it that there is more sensitivity to the needs of the people." I hope that there is a ready enough sensitivity in the planning board that you will see there will be nothing but improvement that we have talked about.

MR. COCUZZA: Thank you, Mr. Wallach.

The next speaker is Mr. William Tatum of 89 Somerset Street.

Will you give the reporter your name and address, please.

MR. TATUM: William Tatum, 89 Somerset Street, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. CORTEZ: You have 30 minutes for your presentation.

MR. TATUM: I am here to talk about the medical school. I want it to be noted that I am not against education, I think we need education in the City of Newark. Most of the city schools in Newark were built before 1930. Thirty-three elementary schools out of 50 in this city are overcrowded, they have double sessions, half sessions, and we are talking about a medical school. The dropout rate in Newark is one of the highest in this country and we are talking about a medical school. Who's going to go to the medical school, not the kids that go to school in the central ward, the kids who drop out because the teachers aren't good enough. If you're talking about a blighted area, the whole city of Newark is blighted. The people of Newark are frustrated right now, these people who come to talk to the board about the medical school and about the blighted area and so on.

I think if the board would sit down like decent human beings and think about what is going on in the city, they wouldn't build a medical school, they would build some elementary schools and maybe some high schools and they would build some decent housing for the people to live in, and they wouldn't be 12 or 14 stories tall and they wouldn't all be in the central ward. The central ward doesn't need housing, Newark needs housing. The black people are down here today fighting for this city. When they fight for the city, they fight for everything that lives in it. I think we should kind of think of what is going on. Newark has a lot of problems. We got welfare problems, we got a housing problem. Newark can't even finance its own self and you are going to spend 50 million dollars and who is going to go to it, kids from South Orange, West Orange, Short Hills, Maplewood, nobody in Newark can go to it, they can't even get out of school because the schools aren't good enough. I think the board should listen to these people.

MR. COCUZZA: Thank you, Mr. Tatum.

The next speaker is Robert Elijah, of 233 Lehigh Avenue, Newark.

Give your name and address to the reporter, please.

MR. ELIJAH: Robert Elijah, 233 Lehigh Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes to make your presentation.

MR. ELIJAH: Establishing a medical college in Newark is a wonderful venture, many benefits could be obtained by those who need it most. A large portion of the people in the City of Newark are in a poverty level and cannot afford to pay expensive medical bills, therefore, many advantages of a medical college would be a blessing to these people and inject extra added life into a reborn Newark. All those assessments are good and reasonable, only a very few would reject these advantages, but as with most things in life, while there are advantages, there are disadvantages also. In balancing these two

factors we must equalize for the best results. In good judgment we must accept and reject. In this particular case we must reject the medical college on 150 acres and declare it unreasonably ridiculous. We must condemn the medical college on 50 acres and consider it unjustifiable and inconsiderate to Newark and its citizens for even 50 acres is unheard of for a medical school in a city like Newark where there is an increase in population and a shortage of land area, yet the medical school needs Newark, by the same token Newark needs the medical school, so therefore there is a compromise, gentlemen, put the medical college on a portion of land a great deal smaller than 50 acres, these schools have great expectation and efficiency, and to handle Newark population without problems, five to 15 acres would most certainly be sufficient to establish a college of Newark.

It appears that land blackmail is in process and Newark cannot afford the ruthless giveaway, it will do irreparable

damage to the city's population in many forms. The [illegible] area at this time is fast becoming unbearably overcrowded. With our [illegible] schools, houses and streets, this area cannot possibly absorb the refugees displaced by this land giveaway. I do not believe the housing authority is capable of [illegible] this job for their waiting list is already overflowing. This entire situation has been set up without true regard or consideration for the little people who will be so greatly affected by the 150 acres. This city is in unimaginably bad trouble as we all know. We have great problems as far as housing is concerned, we have great problems as far as schools are concerned. The problems can be listed on very, very long sheets of paper, I am sure. We need a medical school in Newark but we also need decent and proper housing in Newark. Why give way to suit certain individuals ambitions and selfish fancies, knowing that this escapade will cause us great hardship and possibly much bloodshed. Overcrowding is a major factor in the riot-

to a town of Wales and other cities throughout the nation. For as surely as I stand here and speak, if this blackmail succeeds, I fear very much for the sanity of Newark in the coming months. Thank you.

MR. SOCUZZA: Thank you, Mr. Elijah.

The next speaker is Mr. Charles Mitchell, 65 Mercer Street, Newark, New Jersey.

Give your name and address to the reporter, please.

MR. MITCHELL: Charles Mitchell, 65 Mercer Street, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. SOCUZZA: You have 30 minutes to make your presentation.

MR. MITCHELL: I am here representing myself as a citizen. I am quite annoyed at you gentlemen because I see a lack of interest when a speaker comes to speak to you, I think you should give them your undivided attention. I am not going to stand here and talk to you and make an ass out of myself, no when I speak I want you to listen.

First of all, whose idea was it to

build this beautiful Martland Medical Center, you told us it would be a great thing for the central ward and the City of Newark, the best thing in the world. It's the lowdown dawg thing I ever seen in my life. Now you're telling me you're going to give me a medical school. I don't make enough money to send my children to medical school. Give me the decent housing that I need, that's the one you've got here now, I don't need that one, I don't need that one beasuse you see it's a concrete jungle. What I want is decent housing. I want housing that you white folks up there got, decent stuff, stuff that my children can go out in the yard and play in the grass and the dirt. Don't you tell me I need a medical school, I don't need it. Smile, brother, you know what I'm talking about, you just smile. I don't need a medical school. What I need right now is for you to tear down those buildings there and I want you to put me some beautiful two-family houses there with a little grass and a little trees so my children will be able to know what grass

is when I take them to the park. I have been in Newark for 25 years and it took me three years to get into this concrete jungle that you got me stuck into. I am a veteran. I did two and a half years in service. I said when I come home I'm going to get married and raise me a family. Now I need a decent house to live in. It took me three years to get into this jungle that you people planned. Now you are going to tell me that all my brothers and sisters have to move out of that area because you want to put this medical school there and that you got a place for them to go. How have you got a place for them to go when you haven't got a place for them now? You people have a list longer than this table and you don't have a place to put them, but you don't give a damn up there, do you. You don't live in the city. I bet none of you live in the City of Newark, but I don't care. I'm going to tell you something, even though there are policemen here, if that medical school goes up it's going to come down.

MR. COCUZZA: The next speaker is Nancy Bullock of 289 Osborne Terrace.

Give the reporter your name and address, please.

MR. BULLOCK: Nancy Bullock, 289 Osborne Terrace, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes to make your presentation.

MR. BULLOCK: I don't suppose I have too much to say after what the gentleman just said, but number one, I am more interested in the replacement of people than the displacement of people; number two, what effect will it have on those that are living in this city that are paying the unbearable taxes at present; number three, the overcrowded situation in the school system. Now I would like to have some answers on this, not today, but probably some other day. I haven't seemed to find out any type of answer that would suit this situation. Now I know very little about the people on the planning board and how they arrived at the point that Newark needs a medical school. I would say it would be good

for some people, but it could be detrimental to others. I would ask the people of the planning board to give this a very careful consideration and listen to the gripes and grievances of all people concerned.

Thank you very much.

MR. COCUZZA: The next speaker is Mr. Murray Aboff, 249 Pavonia Avenue.

Give your name and address to the reporter.

MR. ABOFF: Murray S. Aboff, 249 Pavonia Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes to make your presentation.

MR. ABOFF: Gentlemen, you will have to excuse me, I have a bit of a cold. Gentlemen, Mr. Kenney is an ex-officio member. The mayor of Newark has already promised and signed a contract for 150 acres of prime heart-of-the-city land. The contract is immoral if not illegal. For you gentlemen to sit here after the contract has been signed and to finally decide do we take 50 million dollars of federal government money or not, that's all

you are going to decide, is absolutely [illegible]. If you gentlemen have an ounce of civic responsibility, you will go back to the mayor and say, "Mr. Mayor, go down to Trenton and break that contract." Some people here have said we don't need a medical school. We need a medical school, maybe on five acres because the medical situation we have at City Hospital today is horrible.

In the City of New York we have the Cornell Medical School and Cornell, as you all know, is in Ithaca and they have one building on about one-tenth of an acre for the medical school. Let them have their medical school in Madison, New Jersey, with 150 surrounding acres and let them come to Newark on one-tenth of an acre to affiliate it and let's take advantage of the real estate and get some decent housing on prime land.

Right now the City of Newark is being strangled by a 31 per cent tax increase. Some of you may know and some of the audience know I spent my entire life

to work to integrate the city of Newark. We can kind of record of what we have done in Newark. Newark is probably the best integrated urban center in the country. I tell you this, gentlemen, and I said this in Trenton only two months ago, we are playing with fire when we start to play musical chairs with our people, when we have a total disregard for human values, because some politicians dont want to lose face and back down on a totally irresponsible [illegible] statement.

Approximately five years ago I stood at this very podium and I told a group composed of a couple of you gentlemen that you are playing musical chairs with 110,000 people, more than 25 per cent of our city, and that doesn't include this medical school. Now our people would love some decent housing. The gentleman spoke here before and he said something about two-family houses. I would like to see you gentlemen come up with some proposal that maybe they can build [illegible] one-family houses. I know the advantages of having a back yard for kids

to play in. I know the advantage that we have in the Metropolitan area and many of our fellow officials have begun to appreciate it. But let me tell you what is happening with our mutual chair game, you fellows on the planning board, you fellows have taken a good 30 per cent of our city and you have created a college area. We don't need colleges. You created a Penn Plaza which is coming up. You have a Fairmount Project. I am not going through the list, you know it better than I do. What is happening? You are moving people out of the heart of the city and you are pushing them through the trenches and many of our Negroes and Puerto Ricans cannot be moved out of the city, they are barred as if a gate were there with a lock on it. So you have taken areas such as the Metropolitan area, and you take a house like mine with seven rooms in it, and we have got in the last eight months out of 19 houses on my block, 11 have been sold, some of them have been sold to two-families some three never was more than one family before. I tell you what is happening,

when this project and others like it come through you will find two and three families in every one-family house in the city and five years from now you will be coming through there with bulldozers and by that time every inch of the city will be taken and we will not tolerate it.

We speak of housing. I saw this group--not you gentlemen, because many of you were not on it four years ago--in order to create a 74 block light industry area, take a group of homes that were beautiful and you lumped them together with slums so that your overall average could knock every house in the area down and this, too, is immoral. Gentlemen, I think I know several of you on the podium and I know that the few that I know are honorable gentlemen, I would suggest that you emmass and hand in your resignations and say to the mayor, "We will not go along with an immoral project, we would rather resign than sell our fellow citizens down the river."

We have put the highway in the

Vacquable section for seven years and I think several of you know that along the potential route of that highway for seven years not a drop of paint, not a single nail was put into those buildings, so if you think those 100 acres that are being held in abeyance are bad now, wait until you see what they are like 20 years from today, you will make the worst slums this world has known.

Gentlemen, we must back off, we must tell the governor we cannot go through with it, we made a mistake.

MR. COCUZZA: Thank you, Mr. Aboff.

MR. ISAN: I don't know whether you are going to permit me to speak here, I am not a resident of Newark.

MR. COCUZZA: You may testify. Give your name and address to the reporter.

MR. ISAN: Felix J. Isan. I am state director of the Department of Civil Liberty for the Advancement and Protection of Negro Elks of the World. I represent 40,000 Negro Elks. I come here to speak in behalf of [illegible] of the organization

who [illegible] in your city. You have a great problem confronting you gentlemen here and I trust that you will not consider it lightly. You are here tonight dealing with human beings. There has been a request for [illegible] acres of land for a college and medical school. I am saying that you are aware that this same medical school once was located in the city of Jersey City, in the Medical Center. When they built the Medical Center some years ago I was then a resident of Jersey City and I spent 30 years in the police department there and we pleaded with them, as we plead with you tonight, don't build that type of medical center in Jersey City, but the request of the people of Jersey City was ignored, just as you are ignoring the people of the City of Newark. The college moved out of the Medical Center in Jersey City and now stands a white elephant. The mayor doesn't even want it, he's wondering what he is going to do with it. The tax rate, I cut a clipping out of the paper, it's $131 a thousand. I noticed in the paper last evening that the Newark

Financial Director has not sent out tax bills for the City of Newark, they are wrestling with the problem what will the tax rate be in your city. I hope that you will take this under consideration, what it will mean to the tax rate of Newark if you tear down and give to this medical college 150 acres. By no stretch of the imagination, gentlemen, is 150 acres needed for a medical college in your city.

About a month and a half ago I came from the trustees of the new proposed community college and they have decided to bring part of that college here in the City of Newark and they, too, are asking for additional 52 acres. So I say to you men here, where are we going, what are you going to do with these people, what are you going to do with them?

I appeared before the city council here in your city some time ago and I appeared before the board of education along with our citizens and other organizations, the Committee for Better Schools, and we asked the board of education and we

asked the city council of the City of Newark to give an 81 million dollars to build schools and it appears to me that something is radically wrong here in the City of Newark. What's going on? I'm not concerned about the white faces, I believe these men have conscience, I believe they do. We are here tonight to appeal to that conscience. If there is any conscience in here, if there is any good anywhere, these people who sit here, who are part of this excavation that is going on in your city, are children of the same God and all they are asking for is a chance to live. Will you deny them that chance? Will you deny them that chance? The previous speakers have asked you, and I think it's worth a good request, and I believe that with the mentality you possess, that we are wrestling with terrible times and that you [illegible] consideration the request made of you and that you would say, "I am going to get and tell Mayor Addonizio that this is too much for me, I will not do the dirty work, if he wants to do it, let him

do it himself."

I plead to you men here, if there is any good anywhere in Newark, think of all the houses that you are tearing down and the 22,000 people that must be moved out of this area and where are they going to go. In Newark Adonizio there fighting because Mr. Gibson got 18,000 votes last May after campaigning three weeks? Suppose Mr. Gibson had campaigned for two months like the people had asked him to, perhaps he would be here today and it would be a different situation. I have been all over this country, gentlemen, I leave tomorrow for Red Bank where we will convene with our 94th annual convention of the National Elks and I will tell them as part of my report that I was here. I attended the conference out in Passaic last Sunday in the pouring rain and they directed me that I come here tonight. I have other things to do and I certainly believe that these people here would be more [illegible] home looking at television and hearing the news that you are going to

build new schools and [illegible] homes rather than concern yourself with those bulldozers that are tearing down homes where these people are forced to live in. Your job is to determine whether or not that is a blighted area. You don't have to come here to do that. I could have told you that ten years ago. This situation didn't come overnight. You looked at it all those years, what was wrong with your conscience then, why are you so disturbed about the situation now that you're going to put 22,000 people out of their homes and make way for a medical and dental college that could have stayed in Jersey City and occupied the empty building that is there. Then you are asking on top of that for us to give you 52 more acres for a junior college. I am a product of the junior college in Jersey City and I say to you that the junior college don't need 52 acres. We were happy in Jersey City to be housed in Lincoln High School after the day school closed. I think the Jersey City Junior College can show the way. There is no necessity under the heavens for these

people to be put out of their homes to satisfy a political eagle, somebody who wants to be governor, this isn't an easy task, gentlemen, nor is it an easy task for these people who sit here in my hearing and your hearing, I can imagine how they feel while the bulldozers are standing outside in their yards waiting for them to take the last of their belongings and try to find a place to go. Is this America? Is this America? What are we fighting for? I picked up the paper the other day and I saw a boy from Newark in Viet Nam and he won't come back, perhaps if things go the way they are, it's just as well he doesn't, but what about the others, is this what is going to happen in all our cities? You read of Cleveland, you read of Akron, you read of Los Angeles. You read about Atlanta, Georgia, and you read about Mississippi, what is the difference, just geographical. What they are doing in Mississippi they are going to do here in Newark. Gentlemen, I say to you how much of this can the people stand. Martin Luther

King said there's going to be a hot time in Newark. I tried to get Martin Luther King to come here last year. I tried to get Martin Luther King to come to Jersey City last year, now because Martin Luther King is a hothead, but I believe deep in my heart that Martin Luther King has something for me, he has a way out of this situation. All you have to do is look at Chicago, the other night on television the great state of [illegible], how many doctors have gone to [illegible] and what did they find, people there dying on their feet, their children starving, undernourished. What about the job situation here in Newark, have you thought about it? What are you building a medical center for? Don't turn the clock back, gentlemen, we have had enough of this, I think this is the time of reasoning and certainly I look in your faces tonight and I do believe that you are honest men, but I am forced to say to you that somebody is dangling a string, somebody is dangling a string. Don't do it. Don't do it. Let them know you have a

conscience and let them know you have a good mind and that you must account to God because you are dealing with God's children.

MR. COCUZZA: The next speaker is Morris Parker, 65 - 17th Avenue, Newark.

Mr. Parker is not present.

The next speaker is Miss Hatti Graves, 175 First Street, Newark.

Give your name and address to the reporter, please.

MISS GRAVES: Hatti Graves, 175 First Street, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes to make your presentation.

MISS GRAVES: I wasn't planning on speaking. I am not against the medical school. I don't think that half of the [illegible] are against the medical [illegible]. [illegible] are against is the insult of our intelligence. You do not need this much land to build the medical school. If you have this much land to build a medical school, I question how many low-income people will be serviced by this medical school. I feel that you people are

ignoring our needs. You are saying to us that you want us to get out of the City of Newark, for political reasons. I think you should reconsider and give just less land for the medical school and build more limited income housing for the poor. Thank you.

MR. [illegible]: The next speaker is Mr. James Haine, 833 South 14th Street, Newark, New Jersey.

Mr. Haine is not present.

The next speaker is Mr. Donald E. Horne, [illegible] 14th Street, Newark.

Mr. Horne is not present.

The next speaker is Mr. Alvin L. Oliver, 101 Ludlow Street, Newark.

Give the reporter your name and address, please.

MR. OLIVER: Alvin L. Oliver, 101 Ludlow Street, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. COCHRAN: You have 30 minutes for your presentation.

MR. OLIVER: I am here in my capacity as a [illegible] of the United Community Corporation. I [illegible] the distinction, if

you want to call it that, of having compiled a survey based on the 1960 census, which I might add is based on reports given by all of the inspectors representing the city or the housing authority and has never been challenged. I might also add that this 22,000 figure that several dozen speakers have referred to, emanated from this survey which was produced in February of this year. I would like to commence by saying that I will not attempt to bore this planning board or the audience of citizens by reading off a list of figures which is attainable in the census statistics, however I would attempt to analyze the survey based upon what I consider to be crucial questions that have been raised here along the lines of political ramifications, social and economic ramifications as they exist in this area. Before, Mr. [illegible], I think before I proceed that I must address myself to one question that has been prominently raised here by the [illegible] and the core and that is the question about housing for the people in the area. It is safe to say that the

majority of the people in this area are low income residents of the City of Newark, the average median income based upon the 1960 census is[illegible]. It is also safe to say that this figure has not gone up because even in 1960 17 per cent of the residence of this area were unemployed. It is also safe to say that in 1967 more than 17 per cent are presently unemployed. Therefore the question of housing for these inhabitants is very important.

I have had occasion in the month of April with members of the staff of the United Community Committee to meet with the mayor and also Mr. Dennis of the Newark Housing Authority. Mr. Danzig informed us--and you gentlemen are quite aware of the fact that presently on the planning board in the city of Newark there has been only room to include [illegible] housing units for low income families, whether or not you and the [illegible] board [illegible] Mr. Danzig--I think Mr. Dennis is the only one that knows of it because he mentioned it to us--or the [illegible] of the city of Newark are aware

of one dwelling foot, that is, there exists in the City of Newark an ordinance that says [illegible] low cost housing will be built in the City of Newark. So I think it is a fallacy on the part of the representatives of the city, this planning board and the Newark Housing Authority to convey the idea that there will be room to house more people if only we had the land. As long as that ordinance exists on the books, there will be no more low cost houses other than the 360 that are slated for the third ward project.

I would like to now address myself to some of the political ramifications that exist based upon this survey. Here again I must say that in several meetings that I have attended with the city or housing authority since January of this year to the present, the boundaries of this area have shifted. I have a map to prove the point. Since this map is a copy of the original I have here, which was given to the housing specialist of the Federated Community Committee on June 14th, which will be marked, I

intend to offer it into evidence as Exhibit A02 along with the contractual agreement which was adopted and I would like when I am finished to submit both of those pieces, the exhibits, the contract and the map in evidence to point out that the project boundaries included Springfield to West Market Street, and within those boundaries between Norfolk and Lafayette there are approximately--here I am not counting streets and roadways--185 acres, however this map now constitutes a total of 165 acres. It might interest you, the planning board, I am certain it will interest the community, to know the copy of the contract which I have here, which was given by Norman Schiff, Corporation Counsel of the City of Newark, states in effect that schedules A, B, C and D and E encompass the properties which will be utilized for the medical school. It might also be interesting to note that schedules A, B and C are contracted to be produced by the city and given and on or before March 1st, 1968. However, when you turn to Page 3 it

reads as follows, I will read it verbatim:

"Subsequent to March 1, 1968"--which means in effect any time prior to or at least by March 1st, 1968--"the City and the college agree that, in addition to the real property described in schedules A, B and C, the City agrees to acquire, and to convey to the college within 18 months of the receipt by the city of notice from the college that the college requires same for construction, title free and clear of all encumbrances to the real property, or any part thereof, more fully described in schedule D attached to this agreement and made a part thereof."

It also goes on to say within the same flowing language that schedule E attached to this agreement and made a part thereof. So it goes without saying that we are already saddled with a total of 150 acres. There is no longer a question of saying we are discussing a blighted area constituting 15 acres but rather discussing a blighted area constituting 135 acres. I want that to be in the record.

Several minutes ago previous speakers alluded to the fact that the legislature has already passed legislation which does not limit the amount of acres this medical committee can ask for. Getting back to the question of what you gentlemen are supposed to consider, my survey discloses that in 1960 in this particular area there were over 1900 dilapidated housing units. It might also interest you to know the area surrounding this particular 166 acre site includes some 6,000 dilapidated homes. It is therefore safe to say that even with the bulldozers approaching the 2,000 houses within the framework of the medical center site, you have surrounding it another 4,000 dilapidated houses adjacent to the medical center. If you were to examine the City of Newark, if you also examined the bureau of [illegible] in terms of dilapidated and/or substandard housing in the City of Newark, it is safe to say that in the City of Newark today there is well over 14,000 dilapidated housing units in existence.

In 1960 my statistics also show that

there were in the City of Newark 22 per cent in some state of deterioration, in other words, seven years ago 22 per cent of the Newark housing units were in some state of deterioration and seven years later, gentlemen, I am certain that those 22 per cent deteriorated houses now fall within the framework of the then existing six per cent dilapidated houses, so therefore it's safe to say that presently in the City of Newark there is approximately 13 per cent of our total housing units dilapidated. The reason why I mention these figures is because I intend to do what I don't think anyone has done concretely and that is to offer a solution to all of Newark problems with a counter proposal. For lack of a name, it could be referred to as the Alvin L. Oliver Proposal.

We have facing us a problem which other than your jurisdiction, the question of a medical school, the question of housing, the question of public schools, the question of a community college, all this you have to consider, you have to

consider the light industry which abounds in the City of Newark, you also have to consider the fact that presently there exists a department of Urban Affairs in the State of New Jersey who is considering the development of the meadow lands. My proposal, the Alvin L. Oliver Proposal intends to solve all those problems. If we were to look about the City of Newark in any direction, you will find vacant land. The bulk of this vacant land exists in the east section of Newark. It is interesting to note that from Hackensack, New Jersey to the Highlands of New Jersey you have untold hundreds of thousands of acres that are undeveloped or not developed right here in the City of Newark. Bounded on both sides by meadowlands is a street called Wilson Avenue. Wilson Avenue crosses two railroads. Wilson Avenue crosses the Pulaski Skyway, Routes 1 and 9. Wilson Avenue goes under the New Jersey Turnpike. Wilson Avenue runs a block or so away from the Newark Bay down to the Hackensack River. I am requesting that if you gentlemen

consider placing the medical site on Wilson Avenue in the very area that the City is concerned about for being so profusely overridden with junkyards, we can eliminate the junkyards immediately by doing what was done in the area of Long Island known as Conarse, which was New York City's dump, if anyone has been there in the area in the last few years you can see where the City of New York has planted trees and shrubbery and grass and land and developed some of the most beautiful housing projects in Manhattan.

I also state that based on conversations I overheard and in the opinion of many more learned speakers than myself, that the Hartland Medical Center, if that's it's name, the City Hospital of Newark is a complete waste. In terms of having access to a medical hospital on the site of the medical school, I propose that it be bounded by Wilson Avenue, Doremus Avenue and possibly the street that runs parallel to Newark Airport and Avenue K, I believe it is, that the medical site be included in all

of these acres and that a brand new hospital for the City of Newark also be constructed.

As for the present hospital that exists on Bergen Avenue, we can solve that problem immediately by turning over the acreage to the county college and we will let the county college move in forthwith.

Gentlemen, I am a statistician of sorts and somehow I have to take issue with the propaganda that has been dispensed not only from the point of view of statements appearing in the press attributed to the city fathers or planning board or assistant to the mayor or the mayor or even the councilmen, it appears that even newspapers fall into the category of misleading the public. I have a copy of a reproduction of a Newark Sunday News, May 21st, which headlines state "The Medical School Land Use Plan May Aid the City." It's interesting to note that the article as it appears says that once granted the land the city would be in a position to house all of its low income families, all of its middle income families, its senior citizens, et cetera.

I make a point of this because I think in my own candid opinion this was the result of someone in high office trying to palm off a proposal which had no basis in fact on one hand and actually in my opinion was politically motivated.

At this time I would like to briefly present to you some data which was collected by the United Community Corporation in a survey which was conducted the week of February 6th, 1967, and here again, gentlemen, I do not attempt to bore you with figures, I intend to give to you the analysis as developed by the independent corporation which used an IBM and other methods to compute the results of this survey. In terms of background, for some months the New Jersey press media have been reporting plans for New Jersey to build a new medical and dental college in the City of Newark, has been actively involved in the city to have a new school located in the boundaries of the city, more specifically the City has designated the site which in total encompasses the area from West Market

Street to Springfield Avenue and North Newark. The total size of this area has been described in this way by the press "As from 150 to 180 acres." I would say based on the contract that has been drawn up between the medical site committee and the city administration, the most exact figure that I can arrive at is the figure which is displayed on this map of 166 acres.

The entire site lies in the middle of the Negro ghetto and it is estimated to affect directly some 22,000 residents. While I am on the subject, it might be interesting, to note the reason why I came to the conclusion that the whole operation was politically motivated, there exists in that area--by the way, the figures I have are minimum, since now the site has moved up in the Fairmount Urban Renewal Development, the figure I have based on the 1957 figure that existed in the county Hall of Records shows a total registration of 6550 in this area, this encompasses seven portions of the central ward district and three portions of the west ward district,

it's also safe to say in view of the fact that my data proves conclusively that 51 per cent of the total population in this area is 21 years or over, it's safe to say that there are well over 70,000 potential voters existing in this medical site tract. If we are to examine the election returns of 1964, it is also safe to say that you probably will have a black mayor in the City of Newark if those 17,000 people had voted.

Prior to the initiation of the project report, a questionnaire was apparently administered by some governmental body, I learned conclusively this came from the Department of Public Works, I believe, who used the city engineers to conduct the survey, this survey was conducted to reflect the opinions of the residents of the 46 acre tract. Although the results of this investigation were not public at the time this report was made, the questionnaire implied--copies of which I have in my file--tended to suggest certain inadequacies in view of the fact that there

was no identification of having come from the City administration or any agency of the city. The leading question on this survey was in effect that these properties are to be demolished, and as I heard the [illegible] a few minutes ago, this planning [illegible] somehow is meeting after the fact upon a survey conducted by the city, which was originally in February that these [illegible] are to be demolished. The object of the study was to determine the current level of knowledge and awareness of plans to [illegible] and dental college among the citizens, also to determine the attitude or opinion of the population of the area [illegible] given points of the proposed plan presented to them.

Briefly in summary I will try now to give you some of the information that the survey discloses, without questions. The voting age of the population was reported to be 23.5 males and 22.3 for females in terms of age. 61.9 per cent of all the housing units in the United States were owner-occupied in 1960, however, in

the area in question, only 11 per cent were owner-occupied, which meant that 89 per cent of your residents in that target area are renters and not owners. Average family income in the United States in 1962 was $7,262, as I stated before, the average income of the people in the target area, which puts them in the low income housing project, is $4,494. It is interesting to note that the various questions that were presented to the people in this community--I might add different from the survey conducted by the city--this survey was conducted by the total staff of the United Community Corporation, which is something like 80-some-odd per cent Negroes, of those who were aware that a medical site was coming to Newark, slightly less than a majority of the total population, slightly less, in other words, 49 per cent thought that building a medical site was a good idea, the remaining 26 per cent had no opinion, and when asked the question of the respondents do you think it's a good idea,

a total of 63 per cent said no. In the meantime there were 25 per cent that did not answer. When asked about the medical school, do you like it, the majority of the people did not have an opinion, however, those that answered the question, the majority of the opinion indicated that they were not interested in a medical school. On the other hand when it came to the question of providing adequate housing for residents in the area, 81 per cent of the population would favor a medical school, 81 would favor a medical school if they didnot have to move. When it came to a question of wanting to move from the area if there was not a medical school site, 55 per cent wanted to move provided they could find adequate housing. If the city were to take over the property and build standard housing and a medical school and if the residents did not have to move, 74 per cent of the people in the projected area would be in favor of the city building a medical school.

I would like to close now in saying

in effect that this data proves to be conclusive that the question of building a [illegible] in the City of Newark is at issue here, simply because it means depriving people of a place to live. I therefore move, Mr. Chairman, that this board go on [illegible] their proposal instead of the one that is now being presented by the City of Newark.

MR. COCUZZA: We will take a short recess.

(A short recess is taken.)

MR. COCUZZA: The next speaker is--

MR. CURIN: My name is Robert Curin, I was presenting a statement in behalf of the Newark [illegible] Chapter of Racial Equality when the meeting was recessed or adjourned while I was [illegible] my presentation and I was told that I would be allowed to continue the next day. Unfortunately, I had to leave the city for a number of days and could not be available until this evening and I want to know if I would be allowed to complete my presentation.

MR. COCUZZA: We have enough speakers for the evening and after the board adjourns this evening and before the next meeting the board members will be in session and take into consideration your request.

MR. CURIN: I want to know if I can speak.

MR. COCUZZA: You cannot speak at this time, sir.

MR. CURIN: I would like to know if I would be allowed to speak at a later time.

MR. COCUZZA: Not tonight, sir.

MR. CURIN: What about tomorrow?

MR. COCUZZA: The board will take under advisement your request.

MR. CURIN: I want to know whether I am going to be allowed to speak.

MR. COCUZZA: The board will take under advisement your request as to whether you will be permitted to speak tomorrow.

MR. CURIN: I want to say for the record that if our organization is not allowed the opportunity to complete its presentation, that we would feel inclined to take some kind of legal action, being

1 ...ed the right to a fair hearing on this
2 issue and we feel we are certainly entitled
3 to give as exhaustive a presentation to
4 this board as we deem necessary.
5 MR. COCUZZA: The next speaker is
6 Miss Judy Boron, ... Huntsdon Street,
7 Newark.
8 Miss Judy Boron is not present.
9 The next speaker is Miss Lorraine
10 Terry, 819 Huntsdon Street, Newark.
11 Miss Lorraine Terry is not present.
12 The next speaker is Mr. Deotis
13 Taylor, 195 First Street.
14 Mr. Taylor is not present.
15 The next speaker is Mr. James A.
16 Kennedy, 9 - 17th Avenue, Newark.
17 Give your name and address to the
18 reporter, please.
19 MR. KENNEDY: James A. Kennedy,
20 9 - 17th Avenue, Newark.
21 MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes
22 for your presentation.
23 MR. KENNEDY: My name is James A.
24 Kennedy. I have been at those hearings
25 ever since the beginning. I have heard

numerous amounts of speakers appeal to your integrity. I heard them tell you a bunch of lies about how much they like you. I am not responding like that. I spoke before the Board of Education, the City Council and now I am speaking before you and every time I get up in front of you guys all I see is a bunch of [illegible] faces sitting in the [illegible] listening very patiently so you can turn around when we leave and vote for what you want to vote for before we even came in here. You're wasting my ti[illegible] you're [illegible] just like sitting up there acting like you're interested and you're not really [illegible]. I know some times on 400 [illegible] with your forefathers brought our fo[illegible] over here into this country we didn't [illegible] to do a damn thing but work, but now we have gotten to your country and [illegible] your ways, your dirty stinking ways, and we have turned around and put the shoe on the other foot and you guys can't come and BS us about taking [illegible] for a speaker, we ain't going for that. We pay senators

[illegible] to stand up and filibuster [illegible] civil rights issue down and [illegible] to [illegible] me you can't hear what we got to say? You gentlemen will be sitting there for the rest of the summer. The Board of Education, which the press [illegible] a change, will vote in children, no matter his name is, all I know is he's [illegible] and I plan on leading a group if he do become secretary of the schools, every black child will get out of school until we get a black man in that office, so you guys can get your heads together all you want but one thing, baby, we got ours together now, too.

Now I will get down to the medical school issue. Do any of you guys know where 9 - 17th Avenue is? It's upon a tract of [illegible] 14 to six acres of land that you have seen fit to stack up 1600 families of black people and you want to sit there and tell me that you need 150 acres of land for some white boys. Bring them on. You can call me a [illegible], you can call me any name you want to call me, but remember one

thing, I'm so and I have one interest in the [illegible] and that's three little black children that I am raising. I live across from the Fourth Precinct and if they threw sticks or stones or bottles or spit, we would all be fighting together, you have put us together. Lou Danzig, which I repeatedly call a liar, I'll do it again, has [illegible] to be his housing for these [illegible] families that you propose to move, I say proposed, because you're not going to move them, you're not going to move them, you're proposing to move them. I waited in public housing for four years to move from a four-room apartment to a five-room apartment. Lou Danzig is moving [illegible] only occupy three and four-room apartments. The city and state health department will not let Lou Danzig move a family of eight into a three or four-room apartment. Now where is he going to get the room from. I want to [illegible] with you today. We will give-- and we are realistic people, we are humble people, [illegible] give the medical school

16 acres of land if you take the other 134 acres of land and build houses on it, no more 12-story buildings, no more 12 stories, you see, I can run up and down them 12 flights of stairs but I would like you to come and run with me for a while like the old black folks have to do. We don't want no more 12-story buildings. Like I just told you, you guys sitting up there are looking, I know you're not listening, I know I'm wasting my time up here. You guys say you [illegible] do things right. We people are going to do things right, as right as you can let us do it. We are [illegible] you now and when you [illegible] we are going to go there and lay in front of those bulldozers a little and there's no doubt in my mind, there's not one ounce of doubt in my mind that you will not build your [illegible] school, the Lord help your little white boys because I will whip the hell out of anyone I can get my hands on. It's [illegible] court good to see you [illegible] school

and not a darn soul in it because they're going to be too scared. Build the school, baby, and make your money, baby. I happen to be on a somewhat extended vacation and when I'm riding around in the central ward I find out that now as fast as they tear it down, a block in the medical area, it seems as though someone has awarded a contract to the Cyclone Fence Company. You're telling me that by March 1st of [illegible] to put the medical school in, that fence is not high enough to stop me from stepping over it, I can throw anybody I want to over it. I want to know in whose pocket the money to the Cyclone Fence is going. You can't even start building your medical building before you start stealing. You're telling us you're going to give us some jobs when you get your medical school built, we don't want no janitor jobs, man, we can get them any old day. We can't be no doctor over there because you're seeing to it that we can't settle roots long enough to get enough money in our pockets to try to upgrade our-

1 selves. You guys are sitting there and
2 , so you're going to help us, you've
3 to that for three and a half
4 years. Hundred years ago with the
5 Emancipation Proclamation we was promised
6 40 acres and a mule and we ain't got that
7 yet, but you're going to help us. We don't
8 need your kind of help. I'll give you a good
9 proposal, I was here tonight when this
10 was going over there everybody
11 lived and we can't find anybody on this
12 planning board who lives in the central
13 ward, so my advice to you is you stay the
14 hell away from us and we'll stay the hell
15 away from you.
16 MR. COLEMAN: The next speaker is
17 , Street, Newark.
18 Miss Blake is not present.
19 The next speaker is Gail Walker,
20 232 Central Avenue, Newark.
21 Gail Walker is not present.
22 The next speaker is Rebecca Hutchins,
23 214 Orange Street, Newark.
24 Give your name and address to the
25 reporter, please.

MS. HUTCHINS: Rebecca Hutchins, 214 Orange Street, City.

MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes to make your presentation.

MISS HUTCHINS: I want to state for the record that I am opposed to the medical school coming into the 4½ acres. The reason why I am opposed to it is because it is coming in there for white doctors and there is no decent housing in the city for black people. I have been working in that area talking to the people who live there and who want to know where are we going after they tear down their houses. All I can say is I don't know, but the only way you can get what you want is if you get up and go and fight for it. It's not that easy to tell people who have been beaten down so long that they have rights, that they can get out and fight, but I believe if you keep hammering the message to them that they will realize that they can do something and I am prepared to help them do whatever is necessary to see to it that they get decent housing and that the medical

school does not come into this 46 acres.

MR. [illegible]: The next speaker is Mr. James.

Mr. James is not present.

The next speaker is Roger Perry, 36 Bruce Street, Newark.

Give your name and address to the reporter, please.

MR. PERRY: Roger Perry, 36 Bruce Street, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes for your presentation.

MR. PERRY: My name is Roger Perry and I am district leader of the 17th District. I am the leader of about 700 people here. Today the 700 people are very interested in what happened to the City of Newark. I get phone calls after phone calls asking me why did I insist on them to vote for this man. I can't answer the question because I voted for this man so long and he have let us down so low that I am ashamed of my own self to let a man lead us to [illegible] something like this. Our people is locking homes in the area.

Right now the bulldozer just pulled up to [illegible]. He already had a meeting with [illegible] years ago stating that before [illegible] down that one-family houses [illegible] in the area. We haven't heard no more from him until we got this last letter and now he's saying nothing about one or two-family houses he promised us he was going to build, he's saying find some place to go and don't forget your moving rights. That's just what he said to me. The people has a problem in the area and the people look at me for their support. I don't know whether I could get your sympathy or not, but I am asking you to look upon the citizens of Newark and take their problems in your hands and feel as I would feel if you would represent 700 people in the area. The people has a problem. They have a lot of kids that you can't place anywhere. They has a job problem and they keeps looking to me because I have led them to believe that the mayor would protect them and would provide for them, but now I can't no longer say this,

I don't know why. I don't know where to send these people, they have trouble. The bulldozer just pulled up outside of their door. Many people had moved from that area. Some of them are going to Boston. Some of them are going back down South. Some there is nowhere for them to go. Let me tell you, brother, there's going to be a change in Newark, I'm not running, I'm not moving, I'm going to stand up and fight. I have given the mayor my labor, my work, I worked for him and we have asked him to consider the black man's problem in Newark and so far we haven't got no response, now we are asking you all, this is our last hope. The bulldozer every day is continuing to pound our buildings but we haven't been nasty to stop them, but we have to stop them, we got to stop them, that's the only alternative, we have to stop them. We still have meetings after meetings and the bulldozers keep tearing down house after house and we got to stop them. One way or the other we are going to get together with you all to stop the

bulldozers or we have to stop them ourselves. Like I said, I have led these people into it and I intend to lead them out of it. That's my story.

MR. COCUZZA: The next speaker is Mrs. Lena Chives, 120 Shearer Avenue, Newark.

Give your name and address to the reporter, please.

MRS. CHIVES: Mrs. Lena Chives, 120 Shearer Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.

MR. COCUZZA: You have 30 minutes, Mrs. Chives.

MRS. CHIVES: At this time I would like to say that I am the leader of the Good Neighbor Group incorporated in the City of Newark. I was born and raised in this state. I have [illegible] somewhat better but never as bad as it is now. I don't live in the [illegible] ward but I do have many a fine friend that is in the central ward and [illegible] other citizens. Some of [illegible] they want to be able to stay where they are at. I talked with a [illegible] no later than today, rather this evening, he said his home is so run down and

to repair his home for his dear old mother and his other part of the family and his wife and he said, "Mrs. Chivas, I'm a retired man now and I don't have the money to give to the City of Newark, maybe it would be more than what I bought the house for years back, I'm not too happy." He loves the central ward. He loves human nature. I love the central ward. I love the south ward. To me I have never been able to understand the separating of the wards. I guess I sound sort of dumb. I am not what I would say a speaker, I came here tonight rather pleasant but when I'm mad I can say some unpleasant things. I am here speaking not only for the central ward, I am here speaking for the south ward. I would like to know what could we do in the City of Newark to help these people. What can we do to help about crime. Crime came into my home only about seven days ago and I didn't realize that I could actually walk the streets for a few minutes and lose control of speaking, of mind, knowing what

had hey, [illegible]. We do have policemen that do work, they work very hard, yes they do. Some of them do get tired. I do get tired, too. You get tired. They do work very hard because of unnecessary crimes and it's due to this, that we aren't being careful in the City of Newark with these youngsters, not the youngsters particularly not being sent to school when they're sent to school, they sometimes are picked up more or less by these unlawful dealings and they're destroyed. I'm not a cussin' woman unless I get mad, as I'm not mad, I don't believe you get anywhere much by cussin', least I say that because I don't feel that we can gain too much by swearing. I stand here on my integrity as I would as if I was street talking to a man or woman that I felt I knew with great respect, you have to. I am a Newark born citizen, born taxpayer, I work [illegible] with every one of you in this building and outside of this building. I feel we do need something to be done in the City of Newark for education. We do need something done with

these people that are grabbing our children and molesting their bodies, we need something did about it. As I said, I do know we need more and more and better schools, yes, we do. Many times I say to my children that I am going to admit what I am, I am a mother and a grandmother and I'm proud of it and I love everybody's children regardless of race, creed or color, period. I feel everything within my heart. I talk to them. I do know that our children are surrounded with good, maybe our parents should stay home a little bit. I am here to speak how I feel about how we are treated. Now this I must say, there are some in certain races that we will snub each other, yes, we will, it don't have to be the black race, it don't have to be the brown, it don't have to be the red, but we can be snubbed, but we don't have them in this room tonight, but I have only a few days been snubbed by different races and I dare not stand here and say by just one particular race, I dare not do that. Now at this time I want to say that we in

the City of Newark want decent homes, respectable living. Again I may say this, one of my neighbors called me tonight and said, "Mrs. Chives, one of my neighbors was about to be hurt with a knife with a child that was climbing on my cherry tree."

I told him don't bother about the cherry tree, just call the police and stay in the house, let the tree fall down. Now I'm not condemning our children. We got good children. All of us are good people if we would only stop and work in unity and love together. The City of Newark, after I stood and listened and read about the other cities, we have lived in the City of Newark I think pretty quiet. But my heart does go out to see my people how they are living, my heart does go out to see how they could have better housing, cheaper rent. I have been offered an apartment for $160 a month. I said I don't want it, you know with pension people that's on pension, where in heavens can they get that money. My husband gets $160 a month to live on, where can he get it. Let's be

fair and we do respect the community the best we can. We respect our neighbors and I do respect the City of Newark, I am with them 100 per cent. Thank you.

MR. COCUZZA: The hearing is now adjourned until ten a.m. Thursday, June 22nd, 1967, in these council chambers.

(Thereupon the hearing is adjourned.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, BENJAMIN S. TORTORIELLO, a Notary Public and Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that I personally took a stenographic record of the testimony and the proceedings had, and transcribed the same, and the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of same.

CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER